

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A network printing system with a plurality of printing devices connected to a network, the system comprising:

the plurality of printing devices; and

a network device for converting print-request data sent from ~~a print requester~~ another device on the network into a format for a specified printing device to create print data, and transmitting the print data to the specified printing device via the network, wherein the network device comprises:

a data receiving section that receives a print request from the another device on the network, the print request including a name of a specified document definition file, a name of the specified printing device, and the print-request data;

a device information storage section for storing device information representing printing device specifications for the plurality of printing devices, the device information containing ~~a resolution~~, a size and margins;

a document definition file storage section for storing one or more document definition files, including the specified document definition file, each document definition file representing one or more layouts of one or more documents; documents, each document definition file including a length and a plurality of position indications for placing respective text portions, and

a format converting section for determining an actual print area according to at least one of ~~the resolution~~, the size and the margins of the device information and converting print-request data into a print format for ~~a specified printing device~~ the printing device specified in the received print request based on a ratio between ~~a length of the length in the~~

specified document definition file specified in the print request data and a length in device information corresponding to of the actual print area; the printing device specified in the received print request, wherein

the print-request data includes text portions for each respective position indication in the plurality of position indications in the specified document definition file;

the format converting section inserts the text portions into positions in the print data sent to the specified printing device according to the respective position indications in the specified document definition file,

the specified document definition file is stored in the document definition file storage section in advance of transmission of the text portions in the print-request data, and

the network printing system determines whether the specified printing device is available, and if the network printing system determines that the specified printing device is unavailable, the format converting section corrects each element in the print data so that the print data is reformatted for an alternative printing device based on device information for the alternative printing device.

2. (Original) The network printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the network device acquires the device information of the printing devices via the network and stores the device information in the device information storage section.

3. (Previously Presented) The network printing system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a client device that registers a document definition file in the network device via the network and transmits the print-request data to the network device via the network.

4. (Currently Amended) The network printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the format converting section calculates a print position of each item defined in the document definition file with reference to the ~~printable~~ actual print area.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A network printing device for conducting printing with a specified printing device among a plurality of printing devices connected to a network, the network printing device comprising:

a data receiving section that receives a print request from another device on the network, the print request including a name of a specified document definition file, a name of the specified printing device, and print-request data;

a device information storage section for storing device information representing printing device specifications for the plurality of printing devices, the device information containing ~~a resolution,~~ a size and margins;

a document definition file storage section for storing one or more document definition files, including the specified document definition file, each document definition file representing one or more layouts a layout of one or more documents; documents, each document definition file including a length and a plurality of position indications for placing respective text portions, and

a format converting section for determining an actual print area according to a ~~resolution, a size, a size and margins and converting,~~ converting the print-request data into a print format for the printing device specified in the received print request based on a ratio between a length of a the length in the specified document definition file specified in print-request data sent from a print requester and a length of the actual print area in device information corresponding to the printing device specified in the received print request, wherein

the print-request data includes text portions for each respective position indication in the plurality of position indications in the specified document definition file,

the format converting section inserts the text portions into positions in print data sent to the specified printing device according to the respective position indications in the specified document definition file,

the specified document definition file is stored in the document definition file storage section in advance of transmission of the text portions in the print-request data, and

the network printing device determines whether the specified printing device is available, and if the network printing device determines that the specified printing device is unavailable, the format converting section corrects each element in the print data so that the print data is reformatted for an alternative printing device based on device information for the alternative printing device.

7. (Original) The network printing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the network printing device acquires the device information of the printing devices via the network and stores the device information in the device information storage section.

8. (Previously Presented) The network printing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the network printing device is connected to a client device that registers a document definition file via the network and transmits the print-request data via the network.

9. (Currently Amended) The network printing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the format converting section calculates a print position of each item defined in the document definition file with reference to the ~~printable area~~, actual print area.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A network printing method for conducting printing with a specified printing device among a plurality of printing devices connected to a network, the method comprising:

receiving a print request sent from another device on the network, the received print request including a name of a specified document definition file, a name of the specified printing device, and printer-request data;

creating print data by converting the print-request data sent from a print requester via the network into a format for the specified printing device; and

transmitting the print data to the specified printing device via the network,

wherein the creating of the print data comprises:

retrieving device information of the specified printing device specified in the print-request data from a device information storage section for storing device information representing printing device specifications for the plurality of printing devices, the device information containing a resolution, a size and margins;

retrieving a document the specified document definition file specified in the print-request data from a document definition file storage section for storing one or more document definition files representing one or more layouts a layout of one or more documents; documents, each document definition file including a length and a plurality of position indications for placing respective text portions;

determining an actual print area according to a resolution, a size, a size and margins specified in the print-request data; and

converting the print-request data into a print format for the specified printing device based on a ratio between a length of the length in the retrieved specified document definition file and a length in device information corresponding to of the actual print area, the printing device specified in the received print request, wherein

the print-request data includes text portions for each respective position indication in the plurality of position indications in the specified document definition file;

the text portions are inserted into positions in the print data sent to the specified printing device according to the respective position indications in the specified document definition file,

the specified document definition file is stored in the document definition file storage section in advance of transmission of the text portions in the print-request data, and
a determination is made of whether the specified printing device is available, and if the determination is that the specified printing device is unavailable, each element in the print data is corrected so that the print data is reformatted for an alternative printing device based on device information for the alternative printing device.

12. (Original) The network printing method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

acquiring the device information of the printing devices via the network and storing the device information in the device information storage section.

13. (Original) The network printing method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

registering the document definition file in the network device from a client device via the network; and

transmitting the print-request data from the client device via the network.

14. (Previously Presented) The network printing method as claimed in claim 11, wherein format conversion comprises:

calculating a print position of each item defined in the document definition file with reference to the printable area.

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) The network printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the network device further comprises a document definition file managing section that manages the document definition files stored in the document definition file storage section,

the format converting section sends a query to the document definition file managing section with the name of the specified document definition, and

the document definition file managing section searches the document definition file storage area for the specified document definition file.